

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00383 051455Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 /074 W
-----051500Z 068079 /43

P R 041154Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4730
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 383

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RW, CG,
SUBJECT: RWANDA AND ZAIRE'S SHABA PROBLEM

REF (A) STATE 66446, (B) BUJUMBURA 334, (C) GRIBBIN/CRIGLER
LTR 3/23/77

1. FOR PAST WEEK, I HAVE SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO TRACK DOWN FONMIN NSEKALIJE AND DELIVER MESSAGE (PER REF. A) URGING THAT GOR MAKE KNOWN PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ITS WORRIES OVER SHABA SITUATION AND IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORT FOR NIGERIAN MEDIATION. UNFORTUNATELY, FON MIN HAS BEEN SUCCESSIVELY EN MISSION (TO KINSHASA) AND EN CONGE.

2. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF AF/C'S IMPRESSION (REF. C) THAT GOR HAS HESITATED IN ITS SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU AND HIS PROBLEM WITH MERCS AND KTANGANS, I WANT TO STRESS THAT NSEKALIJE BECAME WORKED UP ABOUT THAT SITUATION WELL BEFORE WE DID. AS I POINTED OUT IN KIGALI'S 309 AND 320 (LIMDIS), FONMIN FELT USG WAS GIVING TOO LITTLE SUPPORT TO ITS FRIENDS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING ZAIRE, AND TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET/CUBAN SUPPORT FOR ITS "ENEMIES" AS ALSO REPORTED IN LATTER MSG, NSEKALIJE TRAVELED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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KINSHASA TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFO ABOUT SITUATION AND TO DELIVER MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM PRES. HABYARIMANA--A TESTIMONIAL WHICH WAS PUBLISHED SUBSEQUENTLY IN LOCAL MEDIA.

3. WITH RESPECT TO IMPRESSING OTHERS WITH SERIOUSNESS OF THAT SITUATION, ACCORDING TO AMB. MARK'S REPORT (REF B) OF HIS STOPOVER IN BUJUMBURA, NSEKALIJE TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE

TO GOB SERIOUS NATURE OF ZAIRE SITUATION AND, I PRESUME, TO URGE ITS SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU--THIS, OF COURSE, WITHOUT MY HAVING GOT TO HIM WITH INSTRUCTIONS URGING HIM TO DO SO.

4. IN SUM, GOR BEAT US TO THE PUNCH IN MANIFESTING CONCERN ABOUT SHABA INCURSION AND DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. MOREOVER, WHEN I FINALLY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER MY REFTEL PITCH TO NSEKALIJE, I AM CERTAIN HE WILL REPLY THAT, CONTRARY TO OUR VIEW, IT IS NOT RPT NOT "ESSENTIALLY AFRICAN PROBLEM" (THOUGH HE AND OTHER AFRICANS VERY AGITATED) BUT IN FACT A SOVIET/CUBAN BID FOR INFLUENCE DEMANDING A MORE ENERGETIC U.S. RESPONSE.

CRIGLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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